Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

†18. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development has suggested that more and more Kendriya Vidyalayas should be opened and their infrastructural structure should be improved alongwith development and improvement in their quality;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by when Government would take a final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened after obtaining the approval of Planning Commission and after necessary funds are tied up. On availability of Plan funds new Kendriya Vidyalayas can be considered to be opened.

Cost of higher education

†19. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion has been given by the Planning Commission to make higher education more expensive;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the rationale given for making the education more expensive; and

(d) the decision taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) In the Mid-Term Appraisal Document of the Xth Plan, Planning Commission, had suggested that in order to provide more resources for increasing access and improving quality, apart from a substantial increase in public funding, increasing the fees paid by students is equally necessary and that a substantial increase in fees combined with an aggressive means-based scholarships and loan programmes is the need of the hour. They also suggested that the Central Government should give the lead in this area by increasing fees in the Central Universities. In the comments sent to the Planning Commission, this Department had expressed its disagreement to the proposition in the document about "the need for Central Government to give lead in this area by increasing fees in the Central Universities" as it was considered premature since a CABE committee was looking into all aspects of financing of higher education.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†20. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' had been started in 1999 for providing education to near about 192 million children who were not going to schools;

(b) if so, the amount allocated under this campaign till the year 2004-05;

(c) the amount out of the above which has been utilized till March, 2005; and

(d) the States where utilisation is less than 50 per cent of the allocated amount during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) a programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education was initiated during the year 2000-2001 and also aimed at bringing children not going to school into the fold of elementary education.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.